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Bike-N-Brunch debuts at new locatio **PAGE 3**

Residents express support, concern regarding Dune Coast Baseball **PAGE 6**

New Buffalo residents rallying behind MLB feeder league team **PAGE 8**

Students, parents celebrate at end-of-year carnival **PAGE 10**

HERE'S YOUR SIGN...

PETITE ACRES DEBUTS IN NEW BUFFALO

— PAGE 18 —

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Zookeeper attacked by wolves still under medical care

BY STAN MADDUX

A zookeeper was still receiving medical attention for numerous bite wounds and other injuries suffered during a wolf attack at Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City.

The other zookeeper attacked has been released from the hospital with minor injuries to both arms.

Those are among the latest details released by the mayor's office, which also revealed the two wolves involved in the June 3 attack have been deemed healthy after examinations by a licensed veterinarian.

The wolf exhibit at the lakefront zoo owned by the municipality has since reopened.

Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch expressed full support for the zookeepers and their families.

"This was a traumatic experience for everyone involved," she said.

According to the mayor's office, the attack came after a third wolf at the zoo her entire life, Echo, passed away from natural causes, specifically a ruptured spleen.

A police report shows zookeepers, Courtney Studniarz, 39, and Brianna Stantz, 34, entered the habitat to remove the dead 10-year-old wolf.

While attempting to remove the body, the surviving wolves, Koda and Nikos, became excited and began jumping on Studniarz then began attacking her, according to the police report.

At some point during the attack, police said one of the employees used a shovel to hit the wolves to try and get them to stop.

Other employees were able to remove Studniarz from the exhibit and call 911.

Stantz was still in the exhibit with one of the wolves when firefighters lowered a ladder she used to climb out.

Both zookeepers were taken to Franciscan Health, a hospital at Interstate 94 and U.S. 421 just outside the corporate boundaries of Michigan City

Police said the injuries to Studniarz included bite and tear wounds to her left ear and neck along with puncture wounds to her arms, legs and buttocks.

She also had multiple lacerations from "head to toe," police said.

Michigan City Park Department Assistant Superintendent William Walker described her condition as stable.

According to the Michigan City Zoological Society, the death of the wolf and presence of the zookeepers may have had something to do with the attack.

The surviving wolves "instinctly became protective and agitated as wolves are deeply social animals with strong bonds to their pack," the MCZS said in a statement.

According to the mayor's office, the zoo is conducting a comprehensive review of the incident and habitat entry procedures as part of its standard commitment to employee safety and animal care.

"We have notified all appropriate regulatory agencies and are cooperating fully with their reviews," the mayor's office said.

TROTOM TO PRESENT 'FRONTIER TO FREEDOM' DOCUMENTARY AT VICKERS

In honor of Flag Day and our nation's 250th birthday, The Region of Three Oaks Museum will present "Frontier to Freedom," a documentary describing Michigan's path to becoming the 26th state, 3 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Vickers Theatre, with the movie's writer/producer, Keith Patterson, being on hand for audience questions.

Did you know there was Revolutionary War fighting in our state (actually, not that far from us)? Did you know how European fashion trends shaped the Michigan Territory? Frontier to Freedom uses Ken Burns-style storytelling to shed light on our state's fascinating past. Tickets are available through the Vickers Theatre box office, vickerstheatre.com.

The next day, look for TROTOM's float in Three Oaks' Flag Day parade - a horse-drawn hearse that took area residents to their final resting places more than 125 years ago.

Lastly, don't forget that your museum will be open noon to 5 p.m. Friday-Sunday. — STAFF REPORTS

You're not a G, T_ _ _ _ _'_ a G ...
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Driver in critical condition after rollover crash in Chikaming Township

A driver was in critical condition after a single vehicle rollover crash on I-94 in Chikaming Township Friday, June 5.

According to a press release made by Sgt. Jerad Phillips of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 12:12 a.m. Friday, deputies with the Sheriff's Office responded to westbound I-94 near East Road in Chikaming Township for a single vehicle rollover crash. After arriving on scene, deputies found that the driver/sole occupant, a 25-year-old male from Flint, Michigan, had been ejected from the vehicle and sustained serious, life-threatening injuries.

"Deputies along with medical personnel rendered immediate medical aid and the

driver was subsequently transported to Corewell Health Lakeland South in Saint

Joseph before being airlifted to a Grand Rapids area hospital where the driver remains in critical condition," the release said.

Evidence from the scene "indicates that the driver lost control of the vehicle, ran off the roadway to the right and overturned several times and coming to a rest in the ditch along westbound I-94," the release further stated.

The crash, which remains under investigation, is being reconstructed by the Sheriff's Office's crash reconstruction unit. At the time of the crash, the driver was not wearing their seatbelt properly.

Agencies involved were Berrien County Sheriff's Office, New Buffalo City Police Department, Baroda Lake Township Police Department, Chikaming Township Fire Department, Medic 1 Ambulance, Jeff's Towing & Recovery and Berrien County Dispatch.

— STAFF REPORTS

We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken.
— Fyodor Dostoevsky

A crossing guard ensures riders cross Red Arrow Highway safely

Cyclists cross Red Arrow Highway

Cyclists gather at the Carl Sandburg Pavilion at Harbert Community Park

JV Peacock explains the routes to cyclists

Bike-N-Brunch debuts at new location

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After a one-year hiatus, Radio Harbor Country's Bike-N-Brunch fundraiser was back on Sunday, June 7.

"The rider community came to us and said, 'You've got to keep doing this, we love doing it every year' because it's really the first formal ride of the season," Dave Repetto, chair of the RHC Board of Directors, said.

Repetto said it was the riders who suggested this year's starting and ending point: Harbert Community Park on Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, across from the Red Arrow Trail.

In the past, that spot had belonged to the New Buffalo farm of Dave Knoebber, a founding radio personality of Radio Harbor Country and host of "Harbor Country Art Scene," who passed away last May.

Riders at all levels enjoyed 15, 20, or 25-mile loops through some of Harbor Country's most beautiful backroads.

Repetto gave credit to Joe Martin, parks director of Chikaming Township, for his help. Due to the routes being in Michigan and not northern Indiana, he said he recruited veteran cyclist JV Peacock to lay them out for this year's ride.

This year's ride was limited to 150 riders.

After talking with Chikaming Open Lands, one of the event's sponsors, Repetto said that there's potential for an expanded Bike-N-Brunch.

"We talked to them about possibly teaming up next year and making it a bigger event because we've got a great venue here," he said.

Other sponsors were Luisa's Harbert Swedish Bakery and Market, Red Arrow Roadhouse, Flagship Special Foods and Fish Market, Heston Supper Club, Sawyer Garden Center, Infusco Coffee Roasters and Green Spirit Farms.

At the end of the ride, participants enjoyed a gourmet brunch underneath a large tent in the park, which featured locally grown and prepared food provided through the generous support of Luisa's Harbert Swedish Bakery and Market, Sawyer Garden Center, Red Arrow Roadhouse, Heston Supper Club, Green Spirit Farms and Infusco Coffee Roasters.

As for Radio Harbor Country, Repetto said they're "still going 21 years."

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Radio Harbor Country WRHZ 93.5 FM and WRHC 106.7 FM is a low-power FM radio station in Sawyer, with a 100-watt transmitter that reaches a six-to-10-mile radius, serving the area known as Harbor Country.

Those who tune in can find a variety of programming featuring original arts and education, with a diverse mix of music.

"We're really happy with what we're doing and producing, and the community is supporting us," Repetto said.

For a list of programs, visit www.radioharborcountry.org.

Lisa and Mark Messaglia are raring to go at Harbert Community Park

SCHOLASTICS

Residents express support, concern regarding Dune Coast Baseball

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Following a June 4 town hall, residents expressed concerns and support regarding Dune Coast Baseball, a new Northwoods League summer collegiate franchise based in New Buffalo, with its inaugural season scheduled for next summer, at the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education's June 8 meeting.

Diane Pyshos, who with her husband lives less than a block from the newly upgraded baseball field to be used by Dune Coast Baseball, said she's concerned with the "noise from the amplified PA systems and crowds and the number of days and times of games."

She added they're supportive of "having a collegiate level baseball league playing in New Buffalo – just not in a residentially zoned neighborhood."

"This is a change in use from daytime school baseball games attended by a few people sitting in bag chairs to a commercial enterprise with nighttime games, amplified PA systems, commercial lighting, grandstands accommodating 600 plus people, increased crowds, traffic, wear and tear on our already fragile streets, alcohol and concessions," Pyshos said.

"This is a change in use from daytime school baseball games attended by a few people sitting in bag chairs to a commercial enterprise with nighttime games, amplified PA systems, commercial lighting, grandstands accommodating 600 plus people, increased crowds, traffic, wear and tear on our already fragile streets, alcohol and concessions," Pyshos said.

She asked them to go through the zoning and planning process "typically required by the city for a change in use" and to conduct noise, traffic and lighting studies.

Nora Howe said she's concerned with the potential levels of noise, the impact of potentially having up to 1,000 people attending games three or more times per week on Clay and Bronson and Indiana streets, wear and tear on streets, the policy for rain delays and if alcohol licenses will follow state board liquor laws.

"The lack of transparency, engagement and collaboration with residents in the last two years while your discussions were happening is very concerning and very disappointing," she said.

Jim Howe wanted to know if extra-inning games would go until midnight. He also wondered if, since Northwoods League has a softball league, they planned to use the school's softball field.

Conner Lijewski said that he believes the district has shared information through Facebook posts and the media, adding they've "worked with the city very well."

"I want to commend you guys on the entire effort you've put in and everything you've done and that's why we as a community voted each and every one of you in here," he said.

Justin Cohen, co-founder/developer of the nearby Petite Acres, said that they "see a ton of benefit for the community, bringing in new business, new opportunity."

He added that "the city has worked hard on being able to push this agenda forward as well and it's all been transparent."

"Nothing has been hidden behind closed doors as some may suggest – maybe some don't read what's been put out there with all the city and school board agendas that have been out there," he said.

Regarding transparency, Superintendent Adam Bowen outlined a 14-month process that began in March 2025, when the initial proposal for the regional summer collegiate model was introduced in open public sessions by NBAS.

The process included the city council hosting a formal public presentation with the team owners last November and the school board voting in open session to approve Phase Two funding mechanisms, as well as mentions of the partnership in resident newsletters.

In April 2026, a multi-year lease agreement was executed by the school board in an open meeting.

"Our facilities teams are already coordinating the site logistics for the $750,000 plus privately funded capital improvements coming to Bison Field," Bowen said, adding that the franchise is paying for upgrades.

Bowen said the "bleacher system currently being reviewed has 190 chair back seats that sit behind home plate, bleacher seating on first and third base lines with approximately a total in capacity of 586 people."

Stadium lighting is being provided by Musco Lighting, which is "globally recognized for advanced, customizable LED sports lighting." The systems are "explicitly engineered with directional shielding to pinpoint light on the field of play while protecting surrounding residential neighborhood and the night sky from night pollution and spillover."

School lots will be the primary parking areas, and "traffic will be funneled to major roads, such as U.S. 12, Red Arrow Highway and I-94."

"We're talking about bringing vibrant, family friendly summer entertainment to Harbor Country, injecting vitality into our local economy and creating an absolute crown jewel of a facility," Bowen said.

Fifth graders presented on their camp at YMCA Camp Eberheart in Three Rivers, Michigan, where they participated in team-building activities, such as archery, and activities that promoted perseverance, such as rock-climbing. Students also learned about keeping the lake healthy in "lake communities and met counselors who came from all over the world.

Envirothon students presented on turning the community garden into a raised garden bed, which would prevent animals from getting into it, and that it could be used by other classes as well.

Board members approved Keystone Cooperative supplying fuel products for 2026-2027 school year, as well as Scholl Dairy supplying milk products.

Board members approved the purchase of a 2026 Ford Transit for $68,968.

MUSIC IN THE PARK KICKS OFF THIS WEEKEND

The Southshore Concert Band will kick off Harbor Arts' Music in the Park, with an enjoyable music experience for all ages, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks.

The band was formed in 1992 to provide an opportunity for Berrien County adults to use their musical skills formed in high school and college on a volunteer basis for personal enjoyment. The band membership has grown over the years to include members from northern Indiana as well as other southwest Michigan counties.

The concert is free; however, donations are appreciated. For more information, visit www.harborarts.com. — STAFF REPORTS

Roosevelt Organ Series returns at new location

The 26th season of the renowned, free Roosevelt Organ Concert Series, founded by George and Ann Dobie, will kick off this year with a performance by Stephen Schnurr at 12:15 p.m. CST Wednesday, June 17.

For 24 years, the 1891 Tracker Organ, which was built by Frank Roosevelt of New York and housed in Christ Church's historic chapel at the former Congregational Church, was the instrument at the heart of the series.

Storms during the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025 damaged the roof of Christ Church's historic structure, home of the old Roosevelt Organ, causing unsafe conditions for the concert series to continue at that location.

The 2025 concert series was hosted by the members of Trinity Episcopal Church, in Michigan City's Arts District. This year, because of repair work being done to their roof, the Trinity organ has been packed away for safekeeping during construction. Pastor Mark Reshan and the congregation at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 818 Franklin Street, in downtown Michigan City have offered the use of their sanctuary and historic organ.

The St. Paul pipe organ is considered by many to be the finest pipe organ in Michigan City. The three rank Austin Organ, built in 1967, is described as an "American Classic Design." Because of its great range of capability, the American Guild of Organists has singled out this instrument for praise. It is frequently sought out by organists for recitals.

Back by popular demand, the organist of the first concert on June 17 will be Stephen Schnurr. Stephen has been director of music for Saint Paul Catholic Church, Valparaiso, Indiana, since 1990. He has led the adult choir of the church on tours of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Austria, with performances in Rome, Dublin, Madrid, Barcelona, Warsaw, Krakow, Prague, and Vienna, including a performance for Saint John Paul, II.

In 2016-2017, his middle school choir joined a choir of similar-aged students from Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church of Naperville, Illinois, to make a pilgrimage to Rome, Italy, where they sang for New Year's Day Mass with His Holiness, Pope Francis, at Saint Peter's Basilica. In 2005 and 2009, with Dennis Northway, he published "Pipe Organs of Chicago," a two-volume organ atlas of metropolitan Chicago, the largest publication of its kind in the United States.

In 2013, he published "Organs of Oberlin," chronicling the instruments of the Oberlin Conservatory and the town of Oberlin, Ohio. As a recitalist, he has played programs throughout the United States, as well as in Germany, England, Northern Ireland, and Poland. He has presented recitals for eleven national conventions of the Organ Historical Society and one national convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

The complete 2026 performance schedule includes June 17, Stephen Schnurr; June 24, Open; July 1 - Anthony Holt; July 8, Dylan Engquist Bajo; July 15, John Gouwens; July 22, Derek Nickels; July 29, Ruth Ausema; Aug. 5 George Karst and Aug. 12, Kent Jager.

For questions, contact Bill Halliar at william.halliar@gmail.com or 219-629-5853. — STAFF REPORTS

Hikers to explore Warren Dunes

Hikers can explore Warren Dunes State at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 20.

During Harbor Country Hikers' last hike, it was shared that the "Grand Marais Embayment" coastal feature extends 16 miles between Lakeside in the south and Stevensville in the north. This area is famous for containing some of the largest freshwater dunes in the world and TWO state parks. Be sure to join the Hikers as they continue their exploration of the basin, led by HCH President Pat Fisher, at Warren Dunes State Park.

Warren Dunes State Park provides 1,952 acres of recreational opportunities along the beautiful shore of Lake Michigan. Its rugged dune formation, rising 260 feet above the lake, offers spectacular views and is excellent for hang gliding, dune climbing and sand surfing. The park is home to 3 miles of shoreline, 6 miles of hiking trails and two popular campgrounds.

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis by filling out the brief form at https://harborcountryhikers.org/rollator.

Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend this hike. Dress for the weather, wear a hat and sturdy shoes or boots, preferred pest controls and bring plenty of water.

For more information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo residents rallying behind MLB feeder league team

BY STAN MADDUX

Alcohol will be served during baseball games of players hoping to make it to the major leagues but under restrictions to keep the stadium atmosphere in New Buffalo family friendly.

Servers will also play a role to keep alcohol from getting into the hands of fans under the legal age of 21.

Those are among the new details shared by the owners of the new team during a town hall-type meeting attended by more than 100 people Thursday, June 4, at New Buffalo High School.

Minority owner Stephen Donnelly said the decision to serve alcohol was not taken lightly but, ultimately, boiled down to tradition and alcohol being served already at other college and professional sporting events.

"An adult having the option to have a beer and a hot dog at a baseball game on a beautiful summer evening is Americana at its finest, right, he said.

The team will begin playing during the summer of 2027 with more than 30 home games at the new baseball field at New Buffalo High School.

Grandstand seating and lights will be added to the field at the expense of the team over the next several months.

Donnelly said another factor behind the decision to offer alcohol was for the team to benefit local businesses such as microbreweries in the area that might want their products available during games.

Overwhelming support for the team, which will play in the Northwoods League, was expressed from the audience.

More than 400 players in the Northwoods League with teams throughout the Midwest and into Canada have made it to the major leagues over the past 30 years or so.

Among the players are stars like former Chicago White Sox pitcher

H
F
G
A
School Lots:
A: Pickle Ball Lot – 50 + 2 handicap
B: STEAM Lot – 19
C: Gym Lot – 147 + 6 handicap
D: Middle School Lot – 55 + 4 handicap
E: High School Lot – 80 + 4 handicap
Transportation Lot for any Overflow

Chris Sale and second baseman, Nico Hoerner, of the Chicago Cubs.

One resident, Mike Messinger, who lives across the street from the field, expressed opposition to the sale of alcohol, though, fearing it could lead to disruptive behavior in his quiet neighborhood.

"Who will be policing this," he asked.

Donnelly said everything will be done to create and protect a family-friendly atmosphere at the ballpark.

He said there's talk of ending the sale of alcohol after the 7th inning and during night games at 8:30 p.m. or whichever comes first.

There will also be a limit of two alcohol beverages for every transaction.

Donnelly said concession workers will also be trained to know when to stop serving someone who seems to have had too much to drink.

"This isn't going to be a place to come for a bachelor party. This a family environment," he said.

Another owner, Tom Rowland, said extra security officers will be hired by the team for things like crowd control and parking, if necessary.

Messinger voiced other concerns including noise during games and lighting from the field drifting over into his neighborhood.

The third owner, Brian Williams, said the lights will be professional quality with little, if any, bleeding away from the playing surface.

Williams said the public address system will also be top notch and set at a volume so fans can talk to each other comfortably from their seats, but adjustments will be attempted if it's too loud for nearby residents.

He also felt the over 350 parking spots already available at the field will be enough, at least at the beginning, to accommodate the hundreds, if not, one thousand or more fans he anticipates being in attendance.

Many members of the audience gave thanks to the owners for bringing a team playing at such a high level to New Buffalo.

Some residents like Connor Lijewski said the team will be something to bring people living here together and represents "what New Buffalo stands for."

"It's a place where families can come together children, parents, grandparents and friends to create lasting memories. Beyond that, it provides something even greater. An opportunity for young men to continue pursuing their dreams of playing professional baseball at the highest level possible," he said.

Resident Robert Elmore said he believes the team will help local businesses and the community "as long as it's done right. I wish you the greatest of success."

The first name of the team will be Dune Coast to capture the feeling of the targeted marketing area from Benton Harbor and St. Joseph to the north and into Indiana in places like La Porte, Michigan City and Valparaiso.

The nickname will be decided with help from the community and revealed possibly on July 4.

Williams said the team will start recruiting players in the fall to play beginning next year from about Memorial Day to mid-August.

Host families must also be found for the players to stay with during the season.

Ticket prices haven't been decided but will be affordable, he said.

Williams said students will also have the opportunity for internships with the team in areas like public relations and broadcasting since league games are live streamed.

The new field already has the latest in artificial surfaces in the infield and natural grass like the kind at Miller Park in Milwaukee.

"There's a lot of work to do over the next 9 to 12 months," Rowland said.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Chicago has had a lot of great announcers in my lifetime.

Harry Caray was probably the most famous, and along with Jimmy Piersall, were a great listen with the White Sox.

Harry began his singing of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" during the 7th inning stretch at the urging of Bill Veeck, owner of the White Sox. Harry moved to the north side where he became really famous and the self proclaimed "Bud Man" who, along with partner Steve Stone, entertained Cub fans for years.

The "mayor of Rush street" was unique and helped build the Cub fan base.

He wasn't as famous as Harry, but Bulls commentator Stacey King was equally entertaining. He once said that he and Michael Jordan combined for 70 points in one game (Jordan had 69).

Many Chicagoans considered him the goat of commentators. Stacey died Sunday, June 7th at the age of 59. He was so full of life that I didn't really believe it when I heard. To me, Stacey will always be a legend. Hope heaven has some hot sauce for you. I'm coming Elizabeth. Rest In Peace young man.

The New York Knicks are playing the San Antonio Spurs at MSG in the third game of the NBA finals. President Trump will be in attendance so fans have been instructed to arrive at least two hours before game time.

Tickets, in the secondary market, were going for one hundred thousand dollars over face value. The president is fine with that, saying people can stay home and watch the game on television.

Win 10 games in a row. Again, win ten games in a row. Lose ten games in a row. What the heck is going on? I've been a big baseball fan my entire life, and I've never witnessed a team with such a Jekyll and Hyde personality.

The Cub team, that was built to be a Wonderful Series contender, has looked like one in about half their games, and in the other half they have looked like cellar dwellers. The teams pitching staff has been decimated by injuries and the everyday players have all been hot occasionally and ice cold the other times.

I'm a big fan of Peter Crow Armstrong, the Cub star center fielder.

Pete has been as inconsistent as the rest of the team. He started the season playing great defense but not hitting a lick. Lately, he has been hitting really well but not until after he made a couple of fielding blunders.

Another of the Cubs, Dansby Swanson, has fielded beautifully all year, but he's been hitting so poorly that he currently is serving a "time out" mandated by manager Craig Counsell. Even second baseman Nico Hoerner, who has always been consistent, is in a hitting slump. What's it going to be, first place or last. Check back in October.

Anne Frank said, "What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet".

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Isn't it enough to be middle-aged and impeccably beautiful? Why must one be economically useful? — *Pietros Maneos*

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Students, parents celebrate at end-of-year carnival

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Students got their end-of-year energy out of their systems during New Buffalo Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization's End-of-the-Year Carnival at the elementary school gym Friday, June 5.

Students participated in several activities, such as a Cookie Face game, a Sucker Pull and a cup-balancing competition. Students also got their faces painted and used tickets to win prizes and enjoyed a hot dog dinner.

Children play a Cookie Face game in the gym

Kids play volleyball in the gym

Arianna and Tina Pacheco dress up for a photoshoot

School Resource Officer Rick Edgerle is in jail at a carnival game

Madison Donnelly gets her face painted by Leah McIntosh

Children choose from a tower of suckers for the Sucker Pull

Parents and children choose from a variety of prizes

Elisabeth Survoy builds a tower out of paper cups

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From the Dish Pit...

A HIGHSCHOOLER'S TAKE ON REAL LIFE TOPICS

BY SYLVIE DARLING

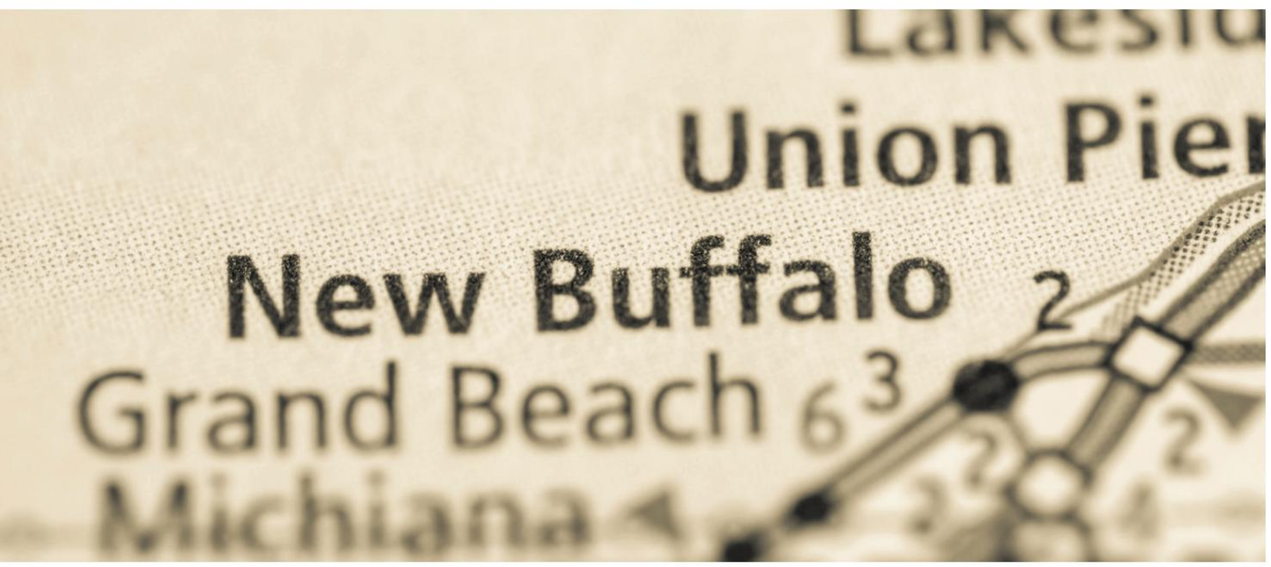
Summer to a Child

Have you ever wondered why children love the summer? The other day, a young couple wandered into the shop with their three-year-old son. Judging by the boy's sunburned cheeks and his parents' order of large iced lattes, I assumed they were refueling after a long beach day. But while the couple seemed worn out from the day, their kid was as alive as ever: zipping through his parents' legs and jabbing his finger at the pastry case. "We promise he's not always this energetic," his dad joked as they paid for their drinks. "During the school year he's the quietest kid in class. But as soon as the weather turns, he gets . . ." "Feral," the man's wife finished as their son sped off toward a row of benches. We shared one last laugh before the couple shuffled over to wait for their drinks.

The interaction had been short, but I found myself thinking about the little boy's excitement throughout the day. I can remember being that age and feeling a similar giddiness as summertime approached. Every year, the flowers outside of my window would burst into color, and a new wave of energy would bloom inside me as well. I remember feeling unmistakably light, as if my heavy winter layers had finally slipped off. All of a sudden, I was free to plunge into the clear waters of Lake Michigan, soar on the backyard swingset, and fill my bucket with fat, dark blueberries at the U-Pick. I could only describe the feeling with one simple word: freedom.

As children grow older, much of that freedom becomes structured by schedules, homework, and responsibilities. School forces children to maintain strict academic agendas, which limit their time for discovery and play. Nevertheless, the summertime offers an escape from this constant bustle – an opportunity to build the kind of memories they will crave year-round. The memories that will, one day, reappear as nostalgia.

For me, summer now smells like freshly cut lawns, sunscreened skin, and the smoky char of the grill. Summer feels like soft sand and hot concrete and cold waves washing over you. Summer tastes like juicy watermelon, charred smores, and creamy ice cream that melts too fast. So, what do children love about summer? Not only the joy of these memories, but the freedom that comes with them.



A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Pizza, wine and Lady Lovely Locks

It began peacefully enough -- me walking into my condo with the medium sausage pizza I'd picked up on my way home from the studio. A couple hours later I'd finished off five slices, two more than my usual allotment of three. I'd washed it all down with a couple glasses of merlot. Or was it three glasses?

I glanced at my watch. It was only eight. Maybe it was three glasses... or four. I was too happy to care. I enjoyed everything about Lady Lovely Locks and the Pixietails and was in a celebratory mood. I was even starting to feel okay about Robby. Buoyed, I decided I'd stop by Robby's office in the morning and sincerely wish him well, remembering how I'd felt when Howard was stand offish after I came on staff.

I got into sweats and a t-shirt and poured myself yet another glass of wine, thinking about Lady Lovely Locks, her Pixietales, Maiden Fair Hair, Maiden Curly Crown and all of the heroines' sweet friends and allies in the Kingdom of Lovely Locks. But to my dismay, as I made my way to my bedroom, some of Lady Lovely Locks adversaries – wicked Duchess Ravenwaves and her taunting minions, Hairball and the Comb Gnomes -- crept in to my mind.

As I turned off the lights and laid down in bed, I focused on the series' other friendly and loyal characters, including Shining Glory, Silky Pup and Silky Mane, who were devoted to Lady Lovely Locks.

I'm a night owl. I get some of my best work done at night when it's dark and there are few distractions. The downside is it's difficult to turn things off, so it usually takes me close to an hour to fall asleep.

With my five scripts written, I'd been pushing myself hard. And with my cruise coming up I still had a lot to take care of before departure. Robby's coming on board was also a distraction that also took up some of my time and focus. It was draining.

So tonight I was asleep almost the second after I laid down.

Lady Lovely Locks and the series' characters immediately flooded my dreams. I'd never before dreamt in color, but I was now and it was really cool. Lady Lovely Locks' beautifully sun-streaked blonde hair wafted as she swirled, dancing in a meadow, her gossamer gown flowing. The sound of delightfully chirping birds filled my dream-air and I could smell sweet flowers. The Pixietails were there, attending to her. But something in this blissfully pastoral scene struck me as troubling.

As my dream continued, it occurred to me that aside from her Pixietails, Lady Lovely Locks was alone and unprotected. Suddenly, my worst fears were realized when evil Lady Ravenwaves galloped on her steed over a hill, her minions, Hairball and her Comb Gnomes – Snaggs, Dulls and Tanglet -- following. All their eyes were ablaze.

But as the villains neared Lady Lovely Locks, my beloved princess turned, her eyes now also blood red, and as the villains joined her, all raced toward my POV,howling, teeth bared, arms flailing, claws at the ends of their hands extended, demanding my head on a platter!

And then I woke up.

It was portend of the second major mistake I would make...a mistake I would make all too soon.

HOROSCOPE

JUNE11-10, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Make the effort to talk to people and put your ideas and creative visions on display as the stars are in a good alignment to enhance your heartfelt expressions, this week. When you stay true to your goals and the things you love, you will beautifully endure any challenges or setbacks life throws at you, now.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Be an advocate for your home and domestic life this week. Streamline your budget, get clutter organized and furniture placed in a more thought out manner. The stars are in a place to support any changes or actions you make in your efforts to make things more beautiful and run more efficiently.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

The stars are aligning in a way that will help you see where the real opportunites for expansion are and where you need to make changes to exisitng pursuits in order for them to come to fruition. This is the time to act and courageousy make the cutts necessary for new growth and expansion.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Put your effort and focus on creating peace and respite, rather than pushing ahead and going against the grain. The money and financial situations won't be a problem so, let that worry go. It is letting yourself take a break that is hard to do. Rest now, because the increase in activity is coming next month.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Be more conservative with your resources this week. You don't always have to be the one to shoulder the responsibility of picking up the tab or being the one to provide for anothers good time. Reign in wasteful spending and cut back on paying the way for others. Let people know you won't be the one buying this time.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This is the time to seek some seclusion and private time. Pull back from socail media and oversharing. The stars are in a position to bless you with insight and opportunity once you quiet all the outside noise and tune into your own frquency. Take back control over your private life and get some mediation time in.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Good times are coming this week. Open up to social opportunities and start mingling. The stars are moving into an alignment that will create networking possibilities and friendly encounters. Be the one to say hello and the stars will be on your side to create the flow of positive outcomes.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Put your efforts into taking care of your things. Whether it is plants, pets or your living space spruce things up and honor the dedication it takes to make your space and items operate like a well oiled machine. The stars are in a good position to help you make changes and take action to get things up and running at their best.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

The stars are lininng up to put you in a great position to travel and learn new things this week. Now is the time to cut off the people that hold you back and embrace the ones that encourage and support new opportunity. You will easily spot negativity and jealousy so, you won't be fooled any longer.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This is the time to spruce things up. Reach out to others this week when you need help doing things around the house. Have the courage to ask for assistance now because the stars are in place this week to assist you in getting you exactly what you need. The energy is all about working with others.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

Partners and close associates will be a big part of the drama in the week ahead. Whether they are making some serious changes to their lifestyle or undergoing a tough family crisis, you will be their lifeline of sorts. Be prepared to listen and provide that shoulder to cry on but don't do the work for them.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The stars are aligning in a way that is going to create the perfect oppotuniyt to change and let go of bad habits. Don't ignore sublte hints because they will be much kinder than the one's that will push you into action next month. So, be couraggeous and proactive. Make the necessary changes, now you can relax.

Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth. — *Marcus Aurelius*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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		1			2		7	
9						8	3	1
							5	
		7		4		9		
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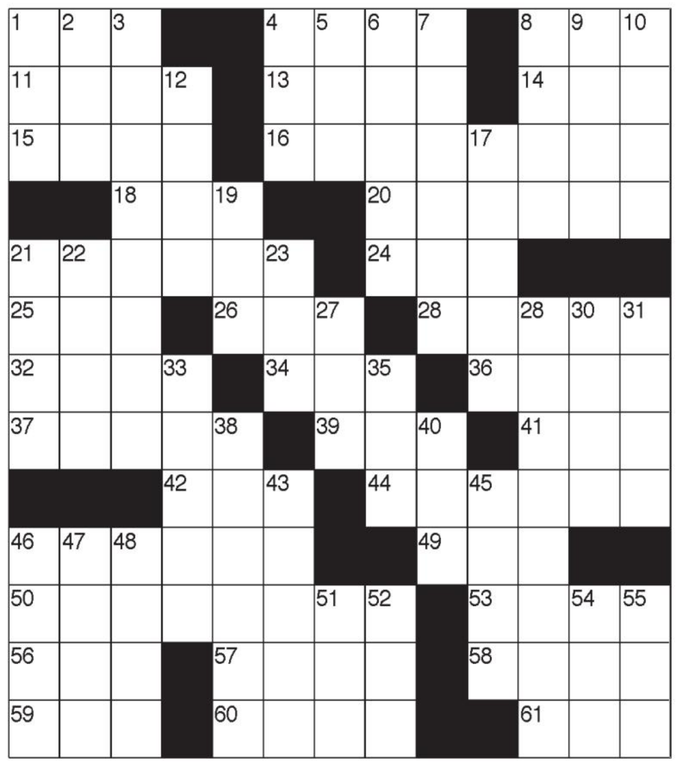
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Accomplished
4 Ammunition
8 Unfavorable
11 Original sinner
13 Spurt
14 Here (Fr.)
15 Ottoman peasant
16 Fr. month
18 Banned pesticide
20 Charm
21 Parent of Agamemnon
24 Nothing
25 Spelling contest
26 Sheep's cry
28 State (Ger.)
32 Winglike
34 Uncouth person
36 Pelvic bones
37 Phil. island
39 Field
41 Cetacean
42 Hebrew letter
44 Gastropod
46 Butterfly
49 No (Scot.)
50 Asian
53 Academy (abbr.)
56 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
57 Nipa palm
58 Southern France
59 Pounds (abbr.)
60 Cant
61 Ambassador (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Daughters of the American Revolution (abbr.)
2 Mountain on Crete
3 Reverie
4 Signed (abbr.)
5 Color
6 Ancient Italian
7 One of the Twelve Titans
8 Bibliography (abbr.)
9 Land measure
10 Legislature
12 Created
17 Many times more than (pref.)
19 Cask
21 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
22 Web
23 Skin vesicle
27 Mulberry of India
29 Baldness
30 Irish nobleman
31 Diplomacy
33 Fiber plant
35 Ancient stringed instrument
38 Of a reign
40 Own (Scot.)
43 Prairie copse
45 Lady's title
46 Ember
47 Saracen
48 Geological epoch
51 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
52 Licensed practical nurse (abbr.)
54 Admiral (abbr.)
55 Fish with bait on the surface



La Porte area home becomes hang out for turkey

BY STAN MADDUX

After quickly becoming like a pet, a fully grown turkey hanging out at a La Porte County home for several days apparently has returned to the wild.

Diane Spoljoric said it was kind of fun having the turkey around but also a hassle from cleaning up droppings the bird left after venturing onto the front porch and back porch of her home in the 3100 block of N. 400 West.

Her husband, Bob, seemed kind of sad, though, about the bird vanishing after quickly becoming attached to it.

Among the things he did was film the turkey in his yard with his three-year old granddaughter on the couple's five acres spread just north and west of the La Porte city limits.

He also raved about things like seeing the turkey perched on top of a cardboard box filled with discarded materials on the front porch.

Spoljaric said he even named the turkey "Patrick."

"My husband's probably heartbroken," she said.

Mr. Spoljaric spotted the healthy-looking turkey in his yard on June 2.

They were not sure if the turkey was wild or belonged to someone like a farmer, so Mrs. Spoljaric advertised the bird on a La Porte radio station segment called Pet Patrol.

Pet patrol is for lost pets, and her hope was the owner would hear the segment and contact her to claim the bird.

She never received any calls.

Spoljaric said she strongly believes the male turkey was domestic because of how tame it acted around humans.

Aside from his occasional porch visit, the turkey stayed outside but close to the house most of the time.

Mrs. Spoljaric said the bird was last seen during the afternoon on Saturday by her husband in the middle of their yard after they returned from an overnight camping trip in Michigan near Buchanan.

A few hours later, the bird was nowhere to be found.

"Hopefully, he wandered off to bring joy to others," she said.

Despite the good moments, Mrs. Spoljaric said she's glad the bird is no longer around mostly because she doesn't have to worry any more about her dogs possibly doing harm to it.

They were put on a leash whenever they were let outside to protect the turkey, which did run with its wings flapping once when spooked by the dogs.

"I didn't want nothing bad to happen to him, but I did not want it either. So, you can have feelings both ways," she said.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
High School & Middle School
Corridor Locker Replacement

Issue Date: June 3, 2026
Proposal Due Date: June 17, 2026
Project Location: New Buffalo Middle/High School
Owner: New Buffalo Area Schools (NBAS)
Contact: Mark German, Director of Operations
Email: mgerman@nbas.org
Phone: 269-469-6017

1. Project Overview
New Buffalo Area Schools (NBAS) is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors for the furnishing, delivery, removal, and installation of corridor lockers at both the High School and Middle School campuses during Summer 2026.

The intent of this project is to replace aging corridor lockers with new heavy-duty steel lockers that meet district specifications and improve functionality, durability, and accessibility.

For a full overview of the district, including project objectives and scope of work, visit: www.nbas.org/page/our-district

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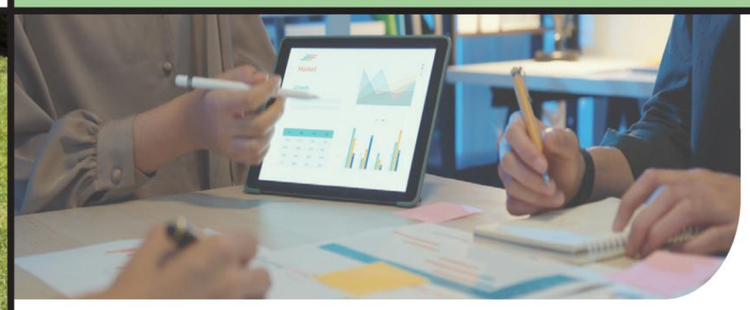

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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

HOW TO REPAIR A DAMAGED VAGUS NERVE

Part 2 of 2

It may benefit you to pull up a picture of the vagusnerve on google to actually see how it wanders through the body. Get a visual of its connection from the brain to the organs. Here are some ways to tone and repair a damaged vagus nerve.

Because it passes directly through the throat, neck, and vocal cords, targeted physical movement and sound therapy can offer communication to the nervous system.

Humming and Singing gives vibration to the vocal cords. This stimulates the auricular and pharyngeal branches of the vagus nerve. Humming a low, steady tone or singing can instantly slow your heart rate.

Try gargling some water. Stimulating the muscles at the back of the throat by gargling vigorously for 30 seconds triggers vagal activation and improves motor function.

Splashing ice-cold water on your face, or ending a shower with 30 seconds of cold water, activates the mammalian dive reflex. This trigger instantly slows the heart rate and shifts the body into a relaxed state.

The way you breathe affects your heart rate. To tone the nerve, practice prolonged exhalations. Use a 4-7-8 technique: Inhale through your nose for 4 seconds, hold for 7, and exhale slowly through pursed lips for 8 seconds.Making your exhalation twice as long as your inhalation sends an immediate signal to the vagus nerve to release aneurotransmitter responsible for lowering heart rate and calming the nervous system. This is a great therapy when you find yourself in a panic or state of anxiety. It works very quickly. No negative side effects, and it is free.

The gut and the brain communicate constantly throughthe gut-brain axis, with 80% vagal nerve fibers sending information up from the gut to the brain. Chronic gut inflammation damages vagal pathways.

You can protect this connection by reducing processed foods that cause inflammation and damage to the microbiome. Make sure you are eating nutrient dense whole living foods. Eat at least 2 Tablespoons fermented enzyme rich raw food daily to support the microbiome.Beneficial gut bacteria produce short-chain fatty acids and neurotransmitters (like GABA) that directly stimulate vagal receptors in the gut lining. If stress and anxiety riddle you, then you need to make a change in your gut. Because most of our immune cells live in our gut, it makes sense that most disease begins in our gut.

Eye movement: Interlock your fingers behind your head. Move just your eyes all the way to the right until you naturally sigh, yawn, or swallow, then repeating to the left. This resets the upper vertebrae and stimulates vagal blood flow.

Bodywork can release restrictions around the nerve pathway. Craniosacral therapy and massaging the base of the skull where the vagus nerve exits the cranium can physically relieve pressure, reduce structural compression, and restore healthy nerve conduction.

Nerve repair takes time. Consistency of diet and lifestyle forms the foundation for long-term nervous system resilience and deep cellular healing.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

MICKEY

This guy, Mickey, desperately wants to be part of your club. He will be the life of the party, with cats, dogs, and older children. Mickey is just over three years old, weighs almost 40 pounds, and is neutered. He is trained well to love his crate, and his new home. He also has eyes to dive into. Mickey loves car rides, chasing any toys, and escaping under fences. He would love chill companions that never leave his side, whether outside, or snuggling on your laps.

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New Buffalo Times
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An elegantly set table inside Chateau Aster

Jeana Anderson Cohen and Justin Cohen on a trail at Petite Acres

The Chateau Aster can be seen in distance at Petite Acres

Petite Acres debuts in New Buffalo

A WORLD APART

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

It's like a forested hideaway that's been removed from it all – a place to escape from life's assembly line of everyday stressors, if only for a moment.

At least, that's what co-founders Jeana Anderson Cohen and Justin Cohen hope to achieve with Petite Acres, which is located at 1109 East Buffalo St. in New Buffalo.

"We want to support our values of being stewards of the land, supporting community, bringing people together and, of course, of making sure wellness is a part of the fabric of this place's life and the people who visit it," Jeana said.

Jeana said Petite Acres was designed to host groups, such as weddings, corporate and wellness retreats and family reunions.

"I dream of reading retreats," she said.

If the space isn't booked for a large event, individual units can be booked online.

Described by Jeana as being "Michigan meets France," Petite Acres, which sits across 4.25 acres, has 12 home-style suites that accommodate up to 55 guests: the four-bedroom Maison Foxglove, with five beds in it; Pied-à-terre Allium, which has two bedrooms with three beds each and the 10 one-and-two-bedroom suites. Each suite, which has a French-influenced name tied to native Michigan flora, is decked out in nature-inspired interiors, with custom wallpaper by Fine & Dandy Co.

The suites are set within landscaped gardens, which support local pollinators.

Tucked away from the trails that wind through the property is a 1,400 square foot gym, Oak Studio. Steps away is a six-person sauna, with a cold plunge. Located on either side of the stairs leading up to the property are two yurts: permanent tent structures that can be used for meditation or small group gatherings.

At one edge of the property sits the 4,700 square foot event hall, Château Aster, which features a 15-foot custom full bar, a central fireplace, a limestone mantelpiece from an 18th century French château and floor-to-ceiling windows. The ballroom can accommodate up to 185 guests and 175 for seated celebrations. Down the hall is the Blue Room: a private setting with an oak-and-iron staircase and Juliet balcony and bespoke seating.

In designing the property, Jeana and Justin said they strove to stay local. The architect was Brooks Architectural Inc. out of Stevensville. Mariani Landscape did the landscape architecture. The designer was Marcie Blanco, founder of Ma'am Design Collective.

"Each tiny home has its own color story and identity, but we try to always make a reference toward Provence or something vintage or something with a little bit of story, which is how a lot of the wallpaper came in because that kind of lends itself to giving each unit its own identity," Blanco, who has an Airbnb in Three Oaks, said.

Retaining the property's natural environment, which includes mature oaks, was important. For decades, it was owned by the Marx family, with William Marx serving as a mayor of New Buffalo.

A "charitable partner" of Petite Acres is Chikaming Open Lands, which ensures that they're good stewards of the land.

"When we found this property fully treed and wooded, we said, 'Okay, this could be a cool spot to unwind - coming out of Covid, people wanted to touch grass, people wanted to have more outdoor experiences, they wanted to reconnect with family and friends because we lost a lot of that," Justin said.

Jeana's background includes content strategy and social media for large brands at agencies, as well as founding a health wellness media company, aSweatLife. Justin spent 20 years in early-stage startups in Chicago, such as Fintech, and helped build the largest private real estate company in Chicago.

While at aSweatLife, Jeana partnered with a resort group that has sprawling wellness properties across the country, one of which the couple visited. For Justin's 40th birthday, they ventured to a property in France. The property, Jeana said, was "of the land:" a pond in the center, a beautiful garden and Michelin Restaurants, with a chef who would clip herbs to prepare "the best meal of your life."

"It all felt so relaxed so we pulled that French influence with the idea that you can slow down here and built around that," Jeana said.

"We came back from that trip and thought, 'How can we do something smaller' and a lot of what attracted us here is the 20 plus vineyards on the wine trail, microbreweries and great chef dinners everywhere around," Justin said.

Jeana and Justin said Petite Acres will "partner with the community in meaningful ways." Prana Life Studio in New Buffalo does their wellness programming, and they'll be partnering with Skip's Restaurant and Catering for a Fourth of July backyard barbecue. As part of being selected for Michigan's Public Spaces Community Places program through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, Petite Acres must raise $7,500, which will be matched by MEDC, through July 31, with funds going toward free community programming.

To book a stay and for more information, visit www.petiteacres.com.

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Treat Dad to craft cocktails and a family brunch, starting at 10a (Local Time).

JUNE 28 | GREENS & SCREENS: CADDYSHACK, WITH VICKERS THEATER | THREE OAKS, MI
Tee up for a laid-back night of putting, pours, and laughs as we bring the green to life before a special screening of Caddyshack.

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JULY 11 | AMERICON | VALPARAISO, IN
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